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HONITON TOWN COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1925.



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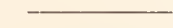


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HONITON TOWN COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my Annual Report, for the year ending December, 1925, and which deals with Public Health Matters and the Sanitary Administration during the year 1925.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the report this year will be known as a survey report, and which is only presented once in five years.

Natural & Social Conditions of the Urban District.

Area	....	....	....	3,134 acres.
Population		....	....	3,105.

Physical Features and Character of the Area.

No. of Inhabited Houses	....	....	826
No. of Families or Separate Occupiers	....		2,890
Rateable value under General District Rate			£18,412.
A penny rate represents	....		£53 19s. 1d.

Vital Statistics.

The total amount of Poor Relief expended in the Urban Area in 1925 was £772 19s. 6d.

The only free Hospital accommodation is the Workhouse Infirmary at Honiton, a large number of cases go to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exeter.

During the period which this report covers there has been two severe outbreaks of Infectious Disease. The first was in 1922, when a large outbreak of Diphtheria occurred amongst the School children at the National Schools. Prior to this, we were always having sporadic cases of Diphtheria cropping up, and in 1922 occurred a severe outbreak, 35 cases occurring.

Energetic steps were taken to discover the source of Infection, and with the assistance of the County Authorities every child's throat in the school was bacteriologically examined, and here was discovered the source of the trouble. Amongst the School children were numerous healthy looking children, who were carriers. Steps were taken to treat these children, and once these children were isolated the disease stopped at once. It took some weeks to clear up these throats, but once having done so, I am glad to say in the succeeding years, we have had very little Diphtheria to deal with. This no doubt is also partly due to the improved sanitary conditions now existing in the town.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred in April 1923, and although there were a large number of cases, they were mostly of a very mild type: 22 cases in all were notified in this outbreak. It was quite impossible to trace the source of infection.

During the period which this report covers, Influenza in the winter months was very prevalent, varying in virulency. It appears to me that after a very virulent attack the wave of virulency seems to die down for a year or two, to again appear with renewed virulency.

Birth Rate Table.

			Per 1,000 of the Population.	No. of Births Registered.
1921	....	....	17·1	.... 52
1922	....	....	15·5	.... 47
1923	....	....	14·7	.... 45
1924	....	....	18·4	.... 57
1925	....	....	15·7	.... 49

The number of Births registered in 1925 was 49, a slight decrease on 1924, when the Births registered were 57. 25 males. 24 females.

Two illegitimate Births were registered.

Death Rate Table.

The number of Deaths registered from all causes was 44. 18 males. 26 females.

being one more than in 1924, when the Deaths registered were 43, but 1924 was an exceptionally low Death Rate.

			Per 1,000 of the Population.	No. of Deaths Registered.
1921	....	....	13·8	.... 42
1922	....	....	16·1	.... 49
1923	....	....	10·4	.... 32
1924	....	....	10·6	.... 43
1925	....	....	10·6	.... 44

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infantile Mortality (under one year) shews rather a large increase : 5 deaths as compared with 2 in 1924.

1921	....	2 deaths	1924	....	2 deaths
1922	....	3 deaths	1925	....	5 deaths
1923	....	3 deaths			

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

I am exceedingly glad to report that not a single death has been registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1925. This is a record for our Urban District.

1921	....	3 deaths	1924	....	3 deaths
1922	....	2 deaths	1925	....	0 deaths
1923	....	2 deaths			

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer registered were 9, this is a higher Death Rate than in 1924, when the deaths registered were 3.

1921	....	6 deaths	1924	....	3 deaths
1922	....	1 death	1925	....	9 deaths
1923	....	4 deaths			

(2) Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

				M.	F.
Births	{	Legitimate	....	25	24
	{	Illegitimate	....	1	1
Deaths		....	....	18	26
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth				....	0
Other causes				....	0

INFANTILE DEATHS.

1921	....	2 deaths	1924	....	2 deaths
1922	....	3 deaths	1925	....	5 deaths
1923	....	3 deaths			

Deaths of Children under one year—

Legitimate, 5. Illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)				....	0
„	„	Whooping Cough		....	0
„	„	Diarrhoea (under one year)			0

(3) Notifiable Infectious Disease during the Year.

Disease.			Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.		Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	....	....	2	....	1	0
Diphtheria	....	....	1	....	0	0
Enteric Fever	....	....	0	....	0	0
Puerpural Fever	....	....	0	....	0	0
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>						
(a) Pulmonary	....	....	12	....	6	0
(b) Non Pulmonary	....	....	3	....	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	1	....	1	0

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE.

			MALES.	FEMALES.	
FROM ALL CAUSES	....	....	18	....	26
Whooping Cough	....	....	0	....	1
Influenza	....	....	0	....	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease			1	....	8
Diabetes	....	....	1	....	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	....	....	2	....	2
Heart Disease	....	....	1	....	4
Arterio-sclerosis	...	....	1	....	0
Bronchitis	....	....	0	....	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	....	....	2	....	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			1	....	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	....	....	0	....	1
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth			2	....	1
Suicide	....	....	1	....	0
Other Deaths from Violence			2	....	1
Other Defined Diseases	....	....	4	....	6
Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year	....	....	3	....	2

Housing.

(See special report included in Surveyor's Report.)

Rivers and Streams.

The Council having completed their new sewage works, the pollution of the River Otter has now ceased, and there should in future be no further cause for complaint.

General Provision of Health Services in the Urban Area.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR
COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tuberculosis, provided for by the County Council.

Small Pox, do. do.

Maternity.—There is no Hospital provided for Maternity Work, with the exception of the Workhouse Infirmary at Honiton.

Fever. The Council have a contract with the Exeter Sanitary Authorities to take all their Fever cases.

Other Hospitals. There are no other Hospitals available in the District, and all cases have to go to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

There is however a first-class private nursing Home at Honiton, which takes a large number of cases (private) at very moderate fees.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

There is no provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children, the Workhouse being the only accommodation available.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by the Ambulance belonging to the Exeter City Fever Hospital. Non-Infectious cases are dealt with by an Ambulance financed by the Red Cross, and stationed at Honiton.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity not provided.

Child Welfare provided by the Local Committee at Honiton.

Day Nurseries are not provided.

Tuberculosis provided by the County Council at Ivybank, Exeter.

Venereal. Treatment is provided by the Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part time official.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time official, who is also Food Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Two district Nurses are employed by the Nursing Association for maternity and general nursing in the home, with infectious cases excepted. There is no provision made for the nursing of infectious cases in the home, and the district Nurses are not allowed to do this work.

Midwives.

The control and inspection of Midwives is now undertaken by the County Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Infectious Diseases generally during the period 1920-1925.

At the commencement of my report I dealt fully with the outbreak of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. I am glad to report further that these two diseases in the latter years of the period this report covers, have shewn a great decline. This no doubt is due (1) to the improved Sanitation in the Borough ; and (2) the better supervision over the milk supplies.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is used by all Medical Practitioners in this Area.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica have been reported.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever or Malaria have been brought to my notice ; also no cases of Trench Fever or Dysentery.

Bacteriological Work. This is provided by the County Authorities.

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by me, under the Public Health Small Pox Regulations, 1917.

Non-notifiable Disease. It is rather difficult to report on this, as no statistics are available, and the only basis to work upon are the reports of absences from school supplied to me by the Head Teacher.

Influenza. This appears to be a regular winter visitor, attacks varying in virulency every two or three years.

Cancer. Deaths from this disease numbered 9 as compared with 3 in 1924, 4 in 1923, 1 in 1922 and 6 in 1921.

Verminous Premises. I hope before my next Annual Report my Council will adopt Part 4 of the Public Health Act, 1925, so that we shall be in a position to deal more thoroughly with verminous premises and children.

Notifiable Infectious Disease during 1925 (excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease.		Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	....	2	1	0
Diphtheria	....	1	0	0
Enteric including Paratyphoid	....	0	0	0
Puerpural Fever	....	0	0	0
Pneumonia	....	3	0	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1	1	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Period.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulm.		Non. Pulm.		Pulm.		Non. Pulm.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	} Nil. Nil.		
1	....	....	0	0	....	0	0
5	....	....	0	0	...	0	0	
10	....	....	0	0	...	1	0	
15	....	....	0	0	....	0	0
20	....	....	0	3	....	0	0
25	....	....	3	1	....	1	1
35	....	....	0	0	...	0	0	
45	...	....	1	2	....	0	0
55	...	...	0	1	....	0	0
65 and upwards			0	1	....	0	0		
Totals			4	8	2	1			

Arrangements for Treatment of Tubercular Patients who desire Sanatorium Treatment are made by the County Authorities.

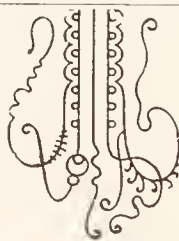
I fully believe more patients could be induced to accept Sanatorium treatment, if the hospitals were situated nearer their homes. Practically all the patients go either to Hawkmoor or to Ivybank at Exeter.

The former means a long journey for their friends, and it seems to me very desirable that the plan formulated before the war for the building of a Hospital in East Devon should if possible be proceeded with.

Honiton Water Supply.

Report of the Water Supply is included in Surveyor's Report with analysis of water.

I have much pleasure in presenting the report of the Sanitary Inspector.



Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1925.

The Corporation of Honiton own the Waterworks. The St. Cyres works are to the North of the town, and consist of a collecting tank, two large reservoirs holding 1,500,000 gallons of water, three filter beds and a service reservoir. The Springfield supply consists of a small, closed reservoir holding 100,000 gallons of water, situated on the Southern side of the town. These two systems are connected, the Springfield supply being supplemented from the main supply at St. Cyres. During the summer there was a very good supply; the water from St. Cyres was cut off from the town during the night so as to fill the Springfield reservoir for the following day. The Corporation is now considering the question of augmenting the water supply to the town, as a number of new houses have recently been connected to the Town Water Supply. The scheme before the Council is to find more water at the water shed, on the same principle as carried out by the Borough Engineer. Large quantities of water are obtainable from this source. The scheme also provides for a new storm water overflow (to stop the discolouration of the water during wet weather), additional filter beds and a new six-inch pipe line to the town. These improvements should meet the town's demands for water for some time to come.

The quality of the water is excellent, and, excepting a few farm houses, the houses within the Borough are supplied with the Town Water Supply.

Analytical and Bacteriological Examination of Water.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.

SPRING—

Receiving Chamber outside Springfield Reservoir.

CHARACTERS.

Colour—Colourless. *Turbidity*—Clear.

Taste—Natural. *Odour*—None.

Suspended Matters—A few microscopic animal and vegetable organisms such as are peculiar to moorland water.

BACTERIA.

	Number per hundred cubic centimetres.
Bacillus Coli Communis	5
Streptococcus	None

ANALYSIS.

	Parts per hundred thousand.
Chlorine present as Chlorides	1·9
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates ...	0·16
Phosphates	0
Sulphates	
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	5·3
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	1·9
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	3·4
Saline Ammonia	0·0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0022
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0·005
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron	0
Total solid constituents	10·8
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	trace.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.

SPRING—

Inside Springfield Reservoir.

CHARACTERS.

Colour—Colourless. *Turbidity*—Clear.
Taste—Natural. *Odour*—None.

BACTERIA.

		Number per hundred cubic centimetres.
Bacillus Coli Communis	....	20
Streptococcus	....	None

ANALYSIS.

		Parts per hundred thousand.
Chlorine present as Chlorides	....	1·9
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	....	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	....	0·16
Phosphates	....	0
Sulphates	....
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	....	5·4
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)		1·9
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)		3·5
Saline Ammonia	....	0·0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	....	0·005
Lead	....	0
Copper	....	0
Zinc	....	0
Iron	....	0
Total solid constituents	....	10·6
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	....	trace.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.

SPRING—(St. Cyres supply).

Collecting Chamber outside Reservoir.

CHARACTERS.

Colour—Colourless. *Turbidity*—Clear.
Taste—Natural. *Odour*—None.

Suspended Matters—Microscopic organisms such as
abound in moorland waters.

BACTERIA.

	Number per hundred cubic centimetres.
Bacillus Coli Communis	5
Streptococcus	None

ANALYSIS.

	Parts per hundred thousand.
Chlorine present as Chlorides	1·9
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0·066
Phosphates	0
Sulphates	
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	4·8
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	0·9
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	3·9
Saline Ammonia	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0020
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0·06
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron	0
Total solid constituents	9·0
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	trace.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.

SPRINGS—(St. Cyres supply).

Service Reservoir after being filtered.

CHARACTERS.

Colour—Colourless. *Turbidity*—Clear.*Taste*—Natural. *Odour*—None.*Suspended Matters*—Organisms of moorland water.

BACTERIA.

	Number per hundred cubic centimetres.
Bacillus Coli Communis	5
Streptococcus	None

ANALYSIS.

	Parts per hundred thousand.
Chlorine present as Chlorides	1·9
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0·063
Phosphates	0
Sulphates	
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	4·9
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	0·9
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	4·0
Saline Ammonia ...	0·0054
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0·055
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron	0
Total solid constituents	9·2
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	trace.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The main drainage of the Borough passes in a North Westerly direction to the new sewage disposal works at Ottery Moor Farm. The old system of drains emptying into small tanks is practically done away with. The construction of the new main sewers in connection with the sewage scheme has now been completed, and they have been connected with the new sewage disposal works. The new sewage disposal works have also been completed, and the Corporation have now taken over these new works, which consist of:—Detritus Chambers, Screening Chamber, Storm Water Weirs, Dortmund Tanks, Storm Water Tanks, two Filter Beds with travelling sprinklers, Humus Tanks, Sludge Lagoons, and the necessary channels on the land for the draining of the Sludge Lagoon and Storm Water Tanks. The system is excellent and the effluent is quite clean after being through the process, and it is then discharged into the river. Great progress has been made during the last five years in the work of reconstructing the drains of the house property in the Borough. These were in a very bad state and it is probably due to the reconstruction of many of them and to the new Sewage Disposal Works that the town is free from infectious disease.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Otter runs to the north of the town and for some distance forms the boundary of the new Sewage Disposal Works. The River Gissage is now free from pollution. In my last report I mentioned the matter of the Gissage being polluted by the effluent from the timber yard. This has now been stopped, and no further complaints have reached the Honiton Corporation.

Closet Accommodation.

According to local regulations all the closets in the Borough must be water closets. Splendid progress has been made during the last five years in providing additional W.C.s, and it is hoped that in time each house will have a separate W.C.

Marked improvement has again been shewn in the flushing and ventilating of a large number of W.C.s, especially those situated in the central parts of the houses.

The Scavenging.

This work is done by Contract satisfactorily, but greater satisfaction would be felt if the Council did this work by direct labour and it could then be more efficiently done. I hope this matter will receive serious consideration when next the matter is before the Council. It would be advisable for the Borough Council to make a bye-law enforcing owners of cottages and houses to provide each house with a covered sanitary receptacle, which would be for the good of the public health. The refuse is carted to a tip some distance from the town. A number of cesspools still remain in the district, these being outside the drainage area.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the Schools have been excellent. No action has been required with regards to any default.

The drainage systems of the National Schools, Allhallows Public School and the Private School have been thoroughly reconstructed.

Sanitary Inspection for the District.

During the last five years the following work has been completed :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Drains tested	53	41	51	43	32
New W.C.s erected	19	11	12	14	24
New Pail Closets	5	3	3	3	Nil
New Flushing Cisterns	27	74	55	88	40
Privies reconstructed as Pail Closets	6	4	3	3	Nil
New W.C. Pedestals	46	81	60	91	41
Drains condemned	44	32	48	33	20
New Drains laid	53	41	51	43	32
New Cesspools outside the Drainage Area	Nil	Nil	4	1	2
New Manure Pit	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil

Number of Inspections made during the last five years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Visits to Houses	364	380	384	364	370
„ „ Slaughter Houses	32	28	28	28	28
„ „ Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	60	116	61	108	120
„ „ Infectious Disease Cases	52	27	30	12	3
„ „ Schools	24	30	30	40	40
„ for Food Inspection	24	30	30	40	40
„ to Refuse Tip	104	120	130	200	200
„ „ Work Rooms	42	30	28	28	22
„ „ Workshops	39	35	36	36	34
„ „ Sewage Disposal Works and Farm	104	120	130	202	250
„ „ Bakehouses	32	32	32	32	32
„ „ Factories	40	20	26	26	24

Nuisances dealt with during the last five years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Obstructed Drains	12	10	16	8	6
,, W.C.s	5	2	1	1	1
,, Sewers ...	3	2	3	2	1
Defective Sink Wastes	12	8	1	1	3
,, Spouting	4	17	8	6	2
,, Bins	4	2	3	5	2
,, Chimneys	4	4	3	2	2
,, Urinals	3	1	2	3	2
,, W.C.Flushing Cisterns	50	74	55	88	40
,, Pail Closets	5	3	3	3	Nil
,, Inspection Chambers	2	2	1	2	2
,, Traps	36	96	102	129	111
Offensive Accumulations	31	20	21	21	9
Dirty Houses	4	4	2	2	3
Animals improperly kept	4	2	2	4	2
Insanitary Cowsheds	4	3	4	5	1
,, Slaughterhouses ...	3	1	1	2	1
Informal Notices served	142	69	228	202	202
Do. complied with	140	66	207	171	190
Do. in hand ...	2	3	21	31	12
Interviews with Owners or Agents	Nil	31	50	60	60
Statutory Notices served	30	23	9	12	14
Do. complied with	14	17	4	6	7
Do. in hand	16	6	5	6	7

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

There are no houses registered as Common Lodging Houses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop Order is in force in the district. The supply of milk is of a pure and wholesome character, and is adequate. No action has been taken with regard to tuberculous milk. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are inspected every quarter, and are kept in excellent order, necessary improvements are always carried out. With the exception of four cases the town is supplied with milk by the actual producer.

No action has been required with regard to impure or adulterated milk.

During the year new legislation concerning milk came into force. The most important clauses from the public health point of view were those which provided for the inspection of cattle in Dairies, and the authority "for taking precautions against infection or contamination of milk, preventing danger to public health by the sale of infected contaminated or dirty milk."

The Tuberculosis Order was the first attempt put forward to deal with an important problem, viz., tuberculosis of the bovine. Whilst it did not deal with every beast that is affected with the disease, it did deal with the more important and urgent cases that were excreting tubercle bacilli, and so are:—

(1) A danger to the public, who drink their milk and eat their meat.

(2) Those that are mainly responsible for infecting their neighbours in the herd by contaminating the food, premises, and atmosphere with their coughing and breathing.

On the question of improving the cleanliness of our national milk supply it was the duty of all good hygienists to do their utmost to influence the public, educating them on the virtue of clean milk, thus creating a demand for its production and influencing the producers.

(a) Under the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915, and the Milk Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

(1) No action has been taken as to tuberculosis milk, but one producer has had his herd of milch cows tested by a Veterinary Surgeon; the same applies to a retailer of milk who obtains his supply outside the Borough, and in each case the herds have passed the tuberculin test and are free from tuberculosis. As to tubercular cattle good work is being done by producers of milk reporting to the Veterinary Surgeon of suspected disease among the herd of milch cows.

(2) No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under the Special Designation Milk Order, 1923.

(3) No refusal under the Milk Order, 1923.

(4) No Bacteriological examination has been made of samples of graded milk.

Food.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Council. No cases of food poisoning have been notified, and no action has been required under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act during the year.

Meat.

(1) Under the new Public Health Act (Meat) Regulations, September, 1924, the butchers within the Borough have carried out what was required of them very satisfactorily. Times of slaughtering and the number of animals to be slaughtered is always issued by them to the Sanitary Inspector. One has now every opportunity of inspecting the animals after being slaughtered. Since the regulations came into force in September, 1924, the following carcasses have been examined :—

Beef.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.	Lambs.
426	996	1,042	150	12

The diseased meat when found is seized, covered with lime and buried, this work being carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Good work has been done by the stall-holders in the town. Three butchers have provided suitable huts for the meat, and the other converted the old stall into a suitable enclosure, which in every instance complies with the Regulations. These places are kept very clean, and are carefully watched by the Sanitary Inspector, also the vehicles carrying meat are carefully watched. All the butchers have provided glass shutters for the shop fronts.

(3) There is no Public Slaughter House in the Borough, but I trust that the time is not far off when all the old Slaughter Houses are abolished, and provision made for a Public Slaughter House.

The following unsound food was seized and destroyed during the year :—

1 carcase of Beef.

2 Pigs.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.	1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
(1) Registered	9	6	6
(2) Licensed	Nil	1	1
	9	7	7

The Bakehouses have been inspected every quarter, and have been found to be in good and satisfactory condition. There are no underground Bakehouses.

The Factories and Workshops have been duly inspected. The cleansing of these premises has been attended to, and other sanitary measures have been carried out as required by the Factory Act.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
(1) 12 Factories (including Factory Laundries)	24	2	Nil
(2) 17 Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	34	3	Nil
(3) 11 Workplaces (other than Outworkers Premises)	22	9	Nil
TOTAL	80	14	Nil

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops,
any Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	14	14		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	1			
{ Unsuitable or Defective				
{ Not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s 101)				
Other Offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health)				
(Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921				
Total	15	14	Nil	Nil

Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-Laws.

These are as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Bake houses	8	8	8	8	8
Slaughter houses	9	7	7	7	7
Dairies, Cowsheds, Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	Nil	Nil	15	15	16
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Retail Purveyors of Milk	15	17	14	14	14

Nuisances arising from the above :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Dirty walls of Dairies	3	2	5	3	3
Do. Cowsheds	20	21	28	30	26
Do. Slaughter houses	5	4	4	11	8
Do. Bake houses	9	1	5	2	2

Housing.

The erection of eight Non-Parlour type houses has been completed on the Housing Site in Dowell Street. The Corporation contemplate erecting more non-parlour houses. The social aspect of housing is of such importance that greater regard should be paid by those responsible for the housing of working classes. The real object of providing houses is frequently lost sight of by the authority when letting houses. The primary object should be the raising of the general standard of living. The present order with its slums and insanitary areas, stands condemned not only from a health standpoint, but also from a social and moral standpoint.

The essentials for bringing about the desired change :—

(1) The provision of a greater number of houses, and built in the most beautiful locality that can be found. The people surrounded by beauty will be imbued with the desire for beautiful homes. One cannot expect the development of the highest type of manhood in our slums. The present cost of building makes it difficult for the poorer people to inhabit them. The country cannot afford to allow the present generation to continue living in slums and it should be prepared to subsidise housing to such an extent as would make it possible for these people to be able to pay the rent. With better housing I have no doubt that the moral, intellectual and economic status of the poor would be raised.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the Area.

(1) *General Housing Condition.* During the last five years considerable progress has been made to carry out the repairs to cottage property. Owing to the war no repairs had been done, consequently cottages were in a bad state of repair. The present condition of the old cottages is very fair, and the cottages are constantly visited for further repairs, &c.

(2) *Extent of Shortage.* The Housing Shortage in Honiton is very bad, a considerable number of houses in the slum area have been condemned, consequently until more houses can be built at a cheaper rate, the shortage of houses will still exist at Honiton for many years.

(3) *Measures taken to remedy the Shortage of Houses.* The Corporation are hoping to be allowed to build more houses, but these houses must be built of cheaper material to meet the demand of the poorer classes, and more houses allowed to be built to the acre.

(4) No change in population.

(2) Overcrowding.

(1) *Extent.* This is very prevalent in the small houses.

(2) *Causes.* The cause of so much overcrowding is owing to the lack of an adequate number of houses, which if built and let at a reasonable rent, would meet the demand of the families in these overcrowded areas.

(3) *Measures taken, dealing with overcrowding.* No measures taken owing to insufficient cottage property being built, so as to allow the Council to deal with the slum area.

(4) *Principal case of overcrowding during the year 1925.* 1 cottage, containing kitchen, and 1 bedroom, rent 2/10½ per week, occupied by father, mother, 5 girls, and 1 boy.

(3) Fitness of Houses.

(1) *General Standard of Housing in the Area.* The standard of housing is very poor. In the slum area the majority of the houses have no back, and the standard will not be raised until the whole of the slum areas are cleared.

(2) *General character of defects found in unfit houses.* Old roofs, damp rising from ground, very poor light, no through circulation of air, very bad drainage, defective walls, ceilings and floors.

(3) *How far defects are due to lack of proper management, and superintendence by owner or neglect of tenant.* In answer to this question, defects are due to lack of proper management by owners. The owners will not do the necessary repairs to their cottages unless they are forced by the Corporation. There are a few cottages which are being neglected by the tenant.

(4) General Action taken of Unfit Houses.

(a) *Public Health Act.*—Nil.

(b) *Housing Act.*—Notices are served under Section 3 of the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1924, 1925.

(5) Difficulties found in remedying Unfit Houses.

(a) *Conditions so far as they affect Water Closets, Accommodations for Refuse Disposal during the year.*—The old cottage property has in most of the slum area been provided with new drains. The accommodation of Water Closets especially in the slum area is very poor—one W.C. for three cottages. In connection with the Refuse Disposal, it is deposited in sanitary receptacles and buckets, &c., and cleared from the slum area twice a week.

More improvements could be carried out in connection with the improvements to the water supplies to these cottages. Every cottage should have its own water tap, but in the slum area we have one water tap for seven cottages, which is scandalous.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total	....	....	....	....	....	14
(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, 1924 and 1925.						
(1) By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	6
(2) By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	....	8

(1) Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection :—

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Act)	....	....	....	....	90
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and Recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910					90
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				25
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub- Heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....				67

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	45
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing,
Town Planning Act, &c., Act, 1919, 1924, 1925 :—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
	(a) By Owners	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Order became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notice :—
- (a) By Owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 Nil

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit Nil
- (4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made Nil
- (5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

J. W. JONES, M.I.M. & CY. E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Borough Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Honiton Town Council,*

